amounts of compression. For example, the amount of elastomer provided may be different at the ankle area **110** than at the knee area **120**, which may also be different from the elastomer amount at the thigh area **130**, which may be different than the elastomer amount at the waist area **140**.

[0014] More generally, a garment in accordance with the present invention such as tights **100** may be thought of as providing varying amounts of compression along an extremity of the wearer with the amount of compression provided varying from the end of the extremity distant from the core of the wearer's body to a minimum compression near the core of the wearer's body. As can be seen in the example of FIG. **1**, elastomer rings such as first ring **115** located near the ankle region **110** of the wearer may have a first thickness, while a second elastomer ring **125** located near the knee region **120** of the wearer may have a second thickness that is less than the first thickness. Meanwhile, a third elastomer ring **135** located near the thigh region **130** of the wearer may have a third thickness that may be less than the first thickness of the first ring **115** and the second thickness of the second ring **125**, while a further region of the garment such as waist region **140** may possess no elastomer rings at all, relying only upon the compressive force of the base textile itself to provide any compression desired in that region. As illustrated by relative compression gradient **150** in FIG. **1**, the amount of compression provided by tights **100** varies from the greatest compression at the ankles of the wearer to the least compression at the waist of the wearer. For example, tights **100** may provide **20** mmHg of compression at the ankles **110**, 10 mmHg at the knees **120**, and essentially 0 mmHg at the waist **140** or hips. By way of another example, tights **100** may provide between 20 and 30 mmHg of compression at the ankles **110**, between 10 and 15 mmHg at the knees **120**, and between 0 and 5 mmHg at the waist **140** or hips. By way of yet further example, tights **100** may provide between 30 and 40 mmHg at the ankles **110**, between 10 and 20 mmHg at the knees **120**, and between 0 and 5 mmHg at the waist **140** or hips. Some compression gradient configurations possible within the scope of the present invention may require or benefit from prescription guidance from an appropriate healthcare practitioner. The compression gradient of tights **100** or other garments in accordance with the present invention may be substantially linear in its variance, as in the examples provided herein, but may vary in non-linear fashions as well, for example with high compression at the ankles **110**, equally or nearly as equally high compression at the knees **120**, rapidly decreasing compression over the thighs **130**, and then nearly no compression at the waist **140**. While other compression gradients may be desired, for example with higher compression near the core of the wearer and less compression at the end of the limbs of a wearer, the present example illustrated in FIG. **1** represents only one example of a compression gradient that may be desired by some wearers.

[0015] Referring now to FIG. **2**, an example of a first elastomer ring **115** is illustrated. First elastomer ring **115** may have a first thickness **201** that provides a corresponding amount of compressive force. First elastomer ring **115** may be joined with elastomer rings above and/or below it on the garment by a connecting portion **117**. Numerous additional connecting portions other than connecting portion **117** illustrated in FIG. **2** may be provided around the extent of an elastomer ring. Below **111** elastomer ring **115**, the compressive force of the garment may be provided only by the base textile, while directly above **113** elastomer ring **115**, the compressive force of the garment may likewise be provided only by the base textile. The amount of compressive force provided by elastomer ring **115** may be determined by the thickness **201** of elastomer ring **115**. Thickness **201** may comprise the height and/or width of the elastomer ring, as both the height from the base textile and the width along the base textile may be varied in applying the elastomer. While first elastomer ring **115** illustrated in the example of FIG. **2** roughly corresponds to the ankle area **110** illustrated in FIG. **1**, first elastomer **115** may correspond to any other region of a garment and any other portion of the wearer's body when the garment is worn.

[0016] Referring now to FIG. **3**, a second elastomer ring **125** is illustrated. The example second elastomer ring **125** of FIG. **3** may correspond to the knee region **120** of the tights **100** illustrated in the example of FIG. **1**, but may correspond to any other region of a garment or any other portion of a wearer's anatomy when the garment is worn. As illustrated in the example of FIG. **3**, second elastomer ring **125** has a second thickness **301**, such second thickness **301** being less than first thickness **201** illustrated with regard to FIG. **2**. Immediately below **121** second elastomer ring **125** and immediately above **123** second elastomer ring **125**, the compressive force of the garment is provided only by the base textile. Meanwhile, within second elastomer ring **125**, the compressive force of the garment is provided by both the base textile and the elastomer ring **125**. The amount of compressive force provided by second elastomer ring is determined by the thickness **301** of second elastomer ring **125**. Similar to that illustrated in FIG. **1**, one or more connecting portions **127** may join elastomer ring **125** with rings above and/or below elastomer ring **125** on the garment.

[0017] Referring now to FIG. **4**, a third elastomer ring **135** having a third thickness **401** is illustrated. In the present example, third elastomer ring **135** may generally correspond to the thigh region **130** of the wearer, but the example of third elastomer ring **135** may correspond to any other region of a garment or portion of the anatomy of the person wearing such a garment. As illustrated in the example of FIG. **4**, third elastomer ring **135** may have a third thickness **401** that determines the amount of compressive force applied by third elastomer ring **135**. Within third elastomer ring **135**, the compressive force applied by the garment will be the sum of the force exerted by elastomer ring **135** and the base textile. Immediately below **131** and above **133** third elastomer ring **135**, the compressive force applied by the garment is only that produced by the base textile. Once again, one or more connecting portions **137** may join elastomer ring **135** to rings immediately above and/or below it.

[0018] While FIGS. **2-4** illustrate only three discrete examples of rings with three specific elastomer thicknesses, the present invention may utilize any number of elastomer rings and thicknesses. For example, no two elastomer rings on a garment in accordance with the present invention need have the same thickness. In other words, the compressive force exerted by a garment in accordance with the present invention may vary quite gradually along the garment, without sudden changes between discrete zones or bands of a garment. Meanwhile, connecting portions such as, but not limited to, exemplary connecting portions **117**, **127**, **137** may join the various elastomer rings provided on the garment in accordance with the present invention to facilitate donning of the garment. Such connecting portions may